

VI. 6 Apr 79

C U B A - 22

Q 1

RAUL CASTRO RETURNS FROM USSR, BULGARIA VISIT

FI06003 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 6 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, this afternoon welcomed at Jose Marti International Airport Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the PCC Central Committee and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR], and Comrade Vilma Espin, member of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Federation of Cuban Women, who visited the Soviet Union and the Bulgarian People's Republic.

Others present at the airport included Div Gen Sergio del Valle, member of the PCC Politburo; Div Gen Senen Casas Regueiro, first vice minister-chief of the FAR General Staff; Div Gen Abelardo Colome Ibarra; Div Gen Roberto Garcia; and Brig Gen Sixto Batista, all then vice ministers of the FAR and members of the PCC Central Committee.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL FOR 1980 SIGNED WITH GDR

FI052214 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 5 Apr 79 FL

[Excerpt] Berlin--Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, vice president of the Cuban Council of Ministers and Gerhard Weiss, deputy chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers, today signed a protocol for cooperation between the two countries during 1980. The signing of the final document at the offices of the Council of Ministers marked the conclusion of negotiations that began in Berlin last Monday by the intergovernmental commission for the GDR. PCC Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez declared at the signing ceremony that he was pleased with the fraternal atmosphere and mutual understanding that prevailed during the negotiations. He also emphasized the importance of the contacts he has had with high-ranking government and political leaders of the GDR, during which concrete means to expand bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the next 5-year period were discussed. For their part, the principal newspapers of the GDR today highlight the meetings PCC Politburo member Carlos Rafael Rodriguez had with GDR leaders.

ECONOMIC COORDINATION DOCUMENTS SIGNED WITH ROMANIA

FI051652 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Apr 79 FL

[Text] Bucharest--Ilie Verdet, Romanian first deputy prime minister, today received Humberto Perez, vice president of the Council of Ministers and president of the Cuban Central Planning Board [JUCEPLAN]. The meeting dealt with Romanian-Cuban relations and the negotiations which took place in Bucharest to coordinate economic plans between the two countries. They also discussed the state and prospects for trade and economic links between Romania and Cuba and other topics of mutual interest. Shortly before leaving Bucharest, the JUCEPLAN president and the Romanian State Planning Commission chairman, Nicolae Constantin, signed documents on coordinating economic plans for the 1979-80 period.

CEMA AVIATION COUNCIL MEETING OPENS IN HAVANA

FI052157 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2130 GMT 5 Apr 79 FL

[Text] The 22d meeting of the CEMA Permanent Commission's Scientific and Technical Council for Aviation has opened with the participation of delegations from eight countries.

VI. 6 Apr 79

P 6

CENTRAL AMERICA

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP PERSECUTED, SEEKS POPE'S AID

PA051947 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1820 GMT 5 Apr 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 5 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--Orlando Matus del Carmen, Jinotepe coordinator of the Permanent Commission on Human Rights in Nicaragua, has been missing since Tuesday and it is feared he may be dead, national commission coordinator Jose Esteban Gonzalez reported in Guatemala City today. He was told over the telephone about Matus del Carmen's alleged capture by Nicaraguan security officials.

As reported, Matus del Carmen disappeared in his car along the road from Managua to Jinotepe. "If he does not show up in a day or two, he may be dead," the national coordinator of the Nicaraguan Permanent Human Rights Commission said as he stopped over in Guatemala on his way back from Italy.

He added that he has also been informed that Dr Julio Cesar Aviles, national legal secretary of the same commission, is being persecuted and harassed by Nicaraguan police and there is fear for his safety.

National coordinator Gonzalez explained that he is returning from Rome where he met Pope John Paul II to whom he delivered a note signed by more than 40 widows of the latest victims of Somoism. "The note asks the pontiff to send a very high-level ecclesiastical mission to hold hearings of witnesses of the violence and terror existing in Nicaragua in order to brief the pope," Gonzalez said. According to him, Pope John Paul agreed to study the matter.